

HARRIS LAWRENCE 1
77 MONTEVIDEO 3641

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-21 ISO-22 FA-25 CIAE-20 CODE-20 INR-27

NSAE-22 PA-21 USIA-26 PRS-21 SP-22 /237 W
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EXCISE

R 261822Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5398
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY L. Morin DATE 7/78

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

INFO: 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: SEM, BE, UY
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: CASE OF FLAVIO TAVARES
REF: A) MONTEVIDEO 3412 B) MEXICO 19649 C) MONTEVIDEO 2869
BEGIN LIMITED USE

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING
"DESCRIPTION" OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HIS CASE:
A) HEALTH. TAVARES IS HAVING NEW PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY
WITH WHAT THEY ALTERNATELY CALLED "PARTIAL PARALYSIS" AND
"NUMBNESS" IN HIS ARMS AND LEGS, THE RESULT OF HIS "TREATMENT"
DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF CONFINEMENT. THERE HAS BEEN A
RECURRANCE OF HIS CHRONIC DIGESTIVE PROBLEM, AND HE IS HAVING
CONTINUING DENTAL PROBLEMS. MEDICAL TREATMENT HAS BEEN CURSORY,
AT BEST, THEY CLAIMED.
B) BRAZILIAN PRESS INVOLVEMENT. TAVARES WAS RECENTLY
VISITED BY AN "ESTADO DE SAO PAULO" JOURNALIST AND FRIEND,

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GERALDO SIABRA

SIABRA SUBSEQUENTLY WROTE A SIGNED ARTICLE APPEARING
IN HIS PAPER, AND REPRINTED BY "JORNAL DO BRASIL", RELATING
TAVARES MEDICAL PROBLEMS AND THE LACK OF TREATMENT. THIS
ARTICLE WAS FOLLOWED BY AN EDITORIAL IN "ESTADO DE SAO PAULO",
REPORTEDLY ALSO CRITICAL OF THE GOV'S TREATMENT OF TAVARES.
C) GOV PROTESTS AND SANCTIONS AGAINST TAVARES. DEC. 2,
THE GOV "FORMALLY PROTESTED" TO THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IN
MONTEVIDEO REGARDING THE ARTICLES, WHICH WERE TERMED "LIES AND
DISTORTIONS". THIS PROTEST WAS ALSO REPORTED BY "ESTADO DE
SAO PAULO" AND "EXCELSIOR" OF MEXICO, ALTHOUGH NO MENTION OF
THE CASE HAS BEEN MADE BY THE URUGUAYAN PRESS. CONCURRENTLY,
TAVARES' ACCESS TO VISITS BY FAMILY MEMBERS WAS SHARPLY CURTAILED.
THE FREQUENCY WAS ALSO RESTRICTED, AND THE HOUR SET MADE MUCH LESS
CONVENIENT THAN PREVIOUSLY.
D) STATUS OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS. TAVARES' LAWYER WAS
NOTIFIED FIFTEEN DAYS AGO TO APPEAR TO RECEIVE THE PROSECUTOR'S
FINDINGS ("ACUSACION FISCAL"). HOWEVER, WHEN HE WENT TO THE
COURT, HE WAS INFORMED THAT THE ORDER HAD BEEN "COUNTERMANDED"

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AND THAT HE WOULD BE NOTIFIED WHEN THE FINDINGS WERE READY.
NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD SINCE REGARDING THIS MATTER, AND LEGAL
PROCEEDINGS CONTINUE TO BE

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RELEASE ARE FOCUSED

ON SOME (UNDEFINED) INTERVENTION BY THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT.

IN
ADDITION, THE MEE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HAS SUPPOSEDLY TAKEN
UP TAVARES' CASE. "ESTADO DE SAO PAULO" AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS
ARE KEEPING IT ALIVE. THE FAMILY BELIEVES THAT THE "ILL-
ADVISED" URUGUAYAN PROTEST MAY ACTUALLY OPEN THE DOOR TO A
SOLUTION, BY OFFENDING BRAZILIAN SENSITIVITIES AND CREATING
AN ISSUE WHICH MUST EITHER BE DEALT WITH PRIOR TO PRESIDENT
GEISEL'S JANUARY 25 VISIT TO MONTEVIDEO, OR ELSE BE SUBJECT
TO EXPLICITATION BY PRO-TAVARES JOURNALISTS DURING THE VISIT
TO EMBARRASS BOTH GOVERNMENTS, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. FOR BRASILLIA. WOULD APPRECIATE IMPASSY' COMMENTS
REGARDING POSSIBILITY THAT GEISEL VISIT MIGHT SERVE
TO MORE TAVARES' CASE OFF DEAD CENTER. END LIMITED.

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